

FAQ: Advance Parole for DACA Recipients



What is Advance Parole?

Advance Parole (AP) is permission granted by the Department of Homeland Security allowing certain noncitizens to temporarily travel outside the U.S. and return lawfully.

How do I travel abroad with Advance Parole?

Step 1: You must have a current, valid DACA grant, employment authorization document, and passport from your country of citizenship.

You CANNOT apply for Advance Parole while your request for an initial DACA grant is still pending OR if your DACA has expired and you do not currently have DACA. You must have a valid, unexpired passport to travel internationally. If your passport expires within the next 6 months, renew it as soon as possible.

Step 2: You must have a qualifying reason to travel abroad.

- **Education**
 - Examples: study abroad programs, academic research, student athlete travelling to participate in sporting events
- **Employment**
 - Examples: overseas work assignments, conferences, interviews, trainings, or client meetings
- **Humanitarian**
 - Examples: attending a funeral, visiting an ailing relative, or seeking medical treatment

Step 3: You must apply for Advance Parole.

Consult with a qualified immigration attorney BEFORE applying for Advance Parole! Travelling abroad as a DACAmented person is an individualized decision that you must make based on YOUR legal situation.

- It is especially important to discuss with your attorney if any of the following apply:
 - Prior order of deportation or removal or case in immigration court
 - ANY criminal convictions – even if they did not make you ineligible for DACA
 - Prior departure(s) from the U.S. without permission to re-enter
 - Immigration-related fraud or misrepresentation to the government

How do I apply for Advance Parole?

- Fill out the Advance Parole application: [USCIS Form I-131](#)
- Write a statement of purpose explaining in detail your purpose for traveling and intended dates of travel
- Gather evidence/documentation of your reason for travelling (see chart below)
- Also include:
 - A copy of your DACA Approval Notice
 - A copy of your photo ID (EAD card or state ID)
 - 2 passport size photos
 - \$575 filing fee payment payable to the “Department of Homeland Security”

| Humanitarian | Educational | Employment |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Letter from medical professional/hospital documenting ill relative's condition <input type="checkbox"/> Identity doc of ailing relative <input type="checkbox"/> Birth certificate(s) showing relationship with ailing relative <input type="checkbox"/> Death certificate (for funeral) | <p>STUDY ABROAD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Letter from educational institution confirming program participation <input type="checkbox"/> Document showing enrollment in classes/course registration <input type="checkbox"/> Syllabi <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptance letter from the university and/or overseas institution or program <input type="checkbox"/> Program-specific information <input type="checkbox"/> Letter(s) from professor <input type="checkbox"/> Degree plan <p>ACADEMIC RESEARCH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Letter from professor(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Research proposal <p>STUDENT ATHLETE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Records showing enrollment, team membership <input type="checkbox"/> Game schedule | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Letter from employer <input type="checkbox"/> Document showing employment need such as conference or training program <input type="checkbox"/> Invitation to speak at conference/training <input type="checkbox"/> Resume |

How long does it take to get Advance Parole?

- It may take months or even a full year for USCIS to process an AP request, so we recommend planning as far in advance as possible. If you need to travel urgently, USCIS may consider an emergency AP request.

Step 4: You must be granted Advance Parole BEFORE leaving the country.

You must show border patrol officers the Advance Parole document (“I-512L”) to be allowed to re-enter the U.S.

Advisory Notes

Benefits

- Allows DACA recipients to travel outside the U.S. without risking their DACA status.
- Re-entering the U.S. with an AP document counts as a lawful entry to the U.S., which is a requirement for qualified individuals to get their green card (lawful permanent resident status) from within the U.S.

Risks

- Advance Parole does NOT guarantee re-entry to the U.S.
- People who are “inadmissible” are not allowed to enter the U.S. due to their immigration history, criminal history, or other reasons. If you are inadmissible, U.S. officials could deny you entry to the U.S., even if you have a valid AP document.
- It is a possibility that re-entry can be denied at the discretion of the Customs and Border Protection Officer you encounter.
- Your AP document could be revoked while you are outside the U.S.

Resources

- [Study Abroad Worksheet for DACA Recipients](#)
- [Trip Tips: Traveling with Advance Parole through DACA \(UC Berkeley\)](#)